

2/23/77 2-23-77

IN REPLY REFER TO

4700
(N-047)



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely District Office
Star Route 5, Box 1
Ely, NV 89301

February 23, 1977

WHOA!
P. O. Box 555
Reno, NV 89504
Attn: Dawn Lappin

*Please
Return to*

CATHY BARCOMB

Dear Ms. Lappin:

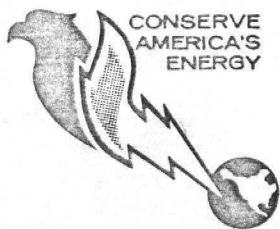
Enclosed is a draft copy of the M Plan for your review. If you have any comments, please return them to us in the enclosed envelope by March 1, 1977, prior to development of the final plan.

We appreciate your interest and concern in the Monte Cristo Management Plan and welcome any comments you might have. If you have any questions about the plan, please contact either Steve Sherman at the Bureau of Land Management District Office (telephone (702) 289-4865) or Garth Baxter at the U.S. Forest Service District Office (telephone (702) 289-3031) in Ely.

Sincerely yours,

George W. Cropper
Acting District Manager

Enclosures



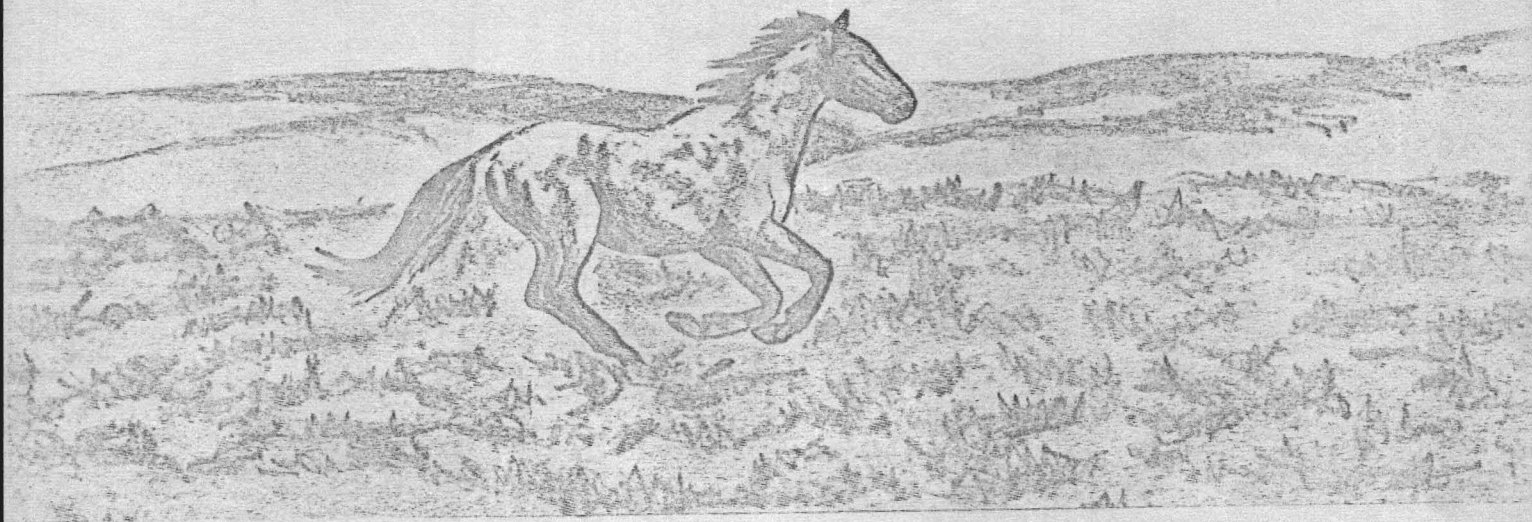
Save Energy and You Serve America!

MONTE CRISTO

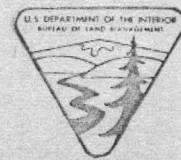
WILD & FREE ROAMING HORSES
MANAGEMENT PLAN

DRAFT

COPY



WHITE PINE RANGER DISTRICT
HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST



EGAN RESOURCE AREA
ELY DISTRICT - BLM

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION	1
A. Location and Area	1
B. Resource Data	1
1. Vegetative Types	1
2. Soils	2
3. Animals	2
a. Wildlife	2
b. Livestock	3
c. Wild Horses	4
(1) Population History	4
(2) Present Situation	4
(a) Numbers	4
(b) Colors	5
(c) Condition	7
(d) Forage	7
(e) Water	8
(f) Seasonal Use	8
(g) Home Ranges	10
C. Coordination	10
1. Relationship to Other Resource Uses and Resource Conflicts	10
a. Wild Horse - Wildlife	11
b. Wild Horse - Livestock	11
c. Interagency Cooperation	12
D. Existing Projects	13
II. OBJECTIVES	13
A. Habitat	13
1. Forage	13
2. Cover	13
3. Water	13
B. Horses	14
1. Animal Numbers	14
2. Sex Ratios	16
3. Quality, Condition and Age Structure	17
4. Wild and Free Roaming Behavior	17
C. Other Resources	17
1. Wildlife	17
2. Livestock	17
3. Recreation	17
III. MANAGEMENT METHODS	18
A. Population Reduction	18
B. Population Maintenance	19
IV. MANAGEMENT FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT	19
V. STUDIES AND EVALUATION	19
A. Habitat	19
1. Utilization Mapping	19
2. Fecal Transects	20

3.	Range Environmental Analysis (USFS)	20
	and Integrated Resource Studies (BLM)	20
B.	Animal	21
1.	Productivity and Survival	21
2.	Marked Horses	21
3.	Wild Horse Census	21
	a. Aircraft	21
	b. Time Lapse Movie Camera	21
4.	Sterilization	22
VI.	ANNUAL REVIEW	22

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
TABLE I Age Classes	6
TABLE II Fecal Analysis Results	9

LIST OF MAPS

General Location Map

- Map # 1 Boundaries, Range Improvements, Land Status
- Map # 2 Home Ranges, Concentration Areas, Time
Lapse Camera Locations
- Map # 3 Wildlife

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Location and Area

The Monte Cristo Herd Management Area is located in White Pine and Nye Counties, Nevada, approximately 30 air miles west of Ely, Nevada. The herd management area lies on the west slopes and foothills of the White Pine Range and extends into the east side of the Bull Creek drainage in Railroad Valley. General topography consists of alluvial fans, foothills canyons and steep ridges. (See General location Map).

Map number 1 shows the herd management area (BLM) and/or wild horse territory (USFS) which is the boundary where wild horses were found at the time of passage of the Wild Horse Act (PL 92-195). Map #1 also shows land status, allotment boundaries, watering places, and existing range improvements in the area.

Acreage tabulations are as follows:

<u>Land Status</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Percent</u>
BLM	155,330	68
National Forest	71,680	31
Private	1,930	1
	<u>228,940</u>	<u>100%</u>

B. Resource Data

1. Vegetative Types

Six vegetative types occur within the area. Pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, and salt desert shrub types provide the majority of the acreage, while grass, including crested wheatgrass seedings, timber, and mountain shrubs make up the remainder.

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
Salt desert shrub	42,760	19
Sagebrush	111,393	48
Pinyon-juniper	61,190	27
Grass	5,255	2
Timber	2,140	1
Mountain shrub	2,363	1
Barren	3,839	2
	<u>228,940</u>	<u>100%</u>

Studies show present range condition to be generally poor with a downward trend occurring. Condition and trend acreages are as follows:

<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
Good	5,870	3
Fair	50,360	22
Poor	172,710	75

TREND

Upward	0	0
Stable	81,794	36
Downward	147,146	64

2. Soils

Soils in the area range from loams on the lower slopes to clay loams and clays on the upper slopes.

Erosion on the lower slopes is relatively slight whereas at higher elevations the erosion is greater due primarily to the steepness of slope and slow permeability of the soil.

The majority of the erosion in the area occurs during spring runoff and summer thunderstorms. Through the years numerous gullies and washes have been formed by erosion which still continues in the area.

3. Animals

a. Wildlife (see map #3)

Yearlong range for antelope and mule deer exists in the area. Five crucial winter areas for mule deer have been identified by

the Nevada Department of Fish and Game. Although there are normally few deer wintering here, these areas are crucial during severe winters when normal winter range is limited.

Habitat for chukar partridge and sage grouse is known to exist in the northern part of the area.

Actual numbers are not known, however, observations made in 1976 indicate approximately 50 antelope inhabit the area. There is no estimated number for deer, small game, and non-game species.

No endangered species are known to exist in the area.

b. Livestock (see map #1)

There are eight established allotments and two proposed allotments in the area. Livestock grazing in the area occurs from both sheep and cattle.

Grazing occurs primarily during fall, winter and spring on BLM allotments, and during summer on the National Forest allotments. Presently (1976) there are 7714 AUMs within the area, 7197 on BLM administered land and 517 on National Forest land. Livestock numbers will be adjusted as allotment management plans are developed.

AUMs of use, AUMs of non-use, and total AUMs by allotment are as follows:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>AUM's of Use</u>	<u>Suspended and Preferred Non-use</u>	<u>Total AUM's</u>
<u>National Forest</u>			
*Treasure Hill	415	0	415
*Black Rock	102	0	102
Total	<u>517</u>	0	<u>517</u>

BLM

*Newark Valley	483 Cattle	696	1179
South Pancake	526 Sheep	628	1154
*Moorman Ranch	106 Cattle	104	210
Six Mile	No current use	955	955
Monte Cristo	377 Cattle	0	377
*Duckwater	<u>2239 Cattle</u>	<u>1083</u>	<u>3322</u>
Total	<u>3731</u>	<u>3464</u>	<u>7197</u>

*This is not total AUM's in the allotment but rather only the portion within the wild horse area.

C. Wild Horses

1. Population History

Horses have always been a part of the range scene in the area, at least since contemporary livestock use began. The present wild horse populations stem primarily from domestic stock used in past ranching and mining operations. Due to the natural tendency of these animals to go wild, many horses escaped and many of these were never retrieved. As the populations of these animals increased, periodic efforts were made by ranchers and government agencies to control populations and to remove unauthorized animals.

The number of horses licensed in the Monte Cristo area has varied over the years. The only recent license for horse use was allowed to Karl Bradshaw for five head on BLM administered lands. This license was discontinued in 1974 because the licensed horses created conflicts with efficient management of the wild and free roaming horses.

2. Present Situation

a. Numbers

With the passage of the Wild and Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act, a need was established for inventory data on

wild horses. No inventories were present prior to or when the act was passed in 1971. Estimates based on subsequent inventory data places the number in the vicinity of 72 horses.

The first aerial inventory was not completed until January and February of 1973. A second aerial survey by helicopter was completed in March 1975. The results of these inventories are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Yearlings</u>	<u>Young</u>	<u>Unclassified</u>	<u>Total</u>
1973	61	5	11	11	88
1975	127	7	7	0	141

In the fall of 1974, a census was made by time lapse camera and on the ground inventory. This data was in agreement with the spring 1975 aerial inventory data.

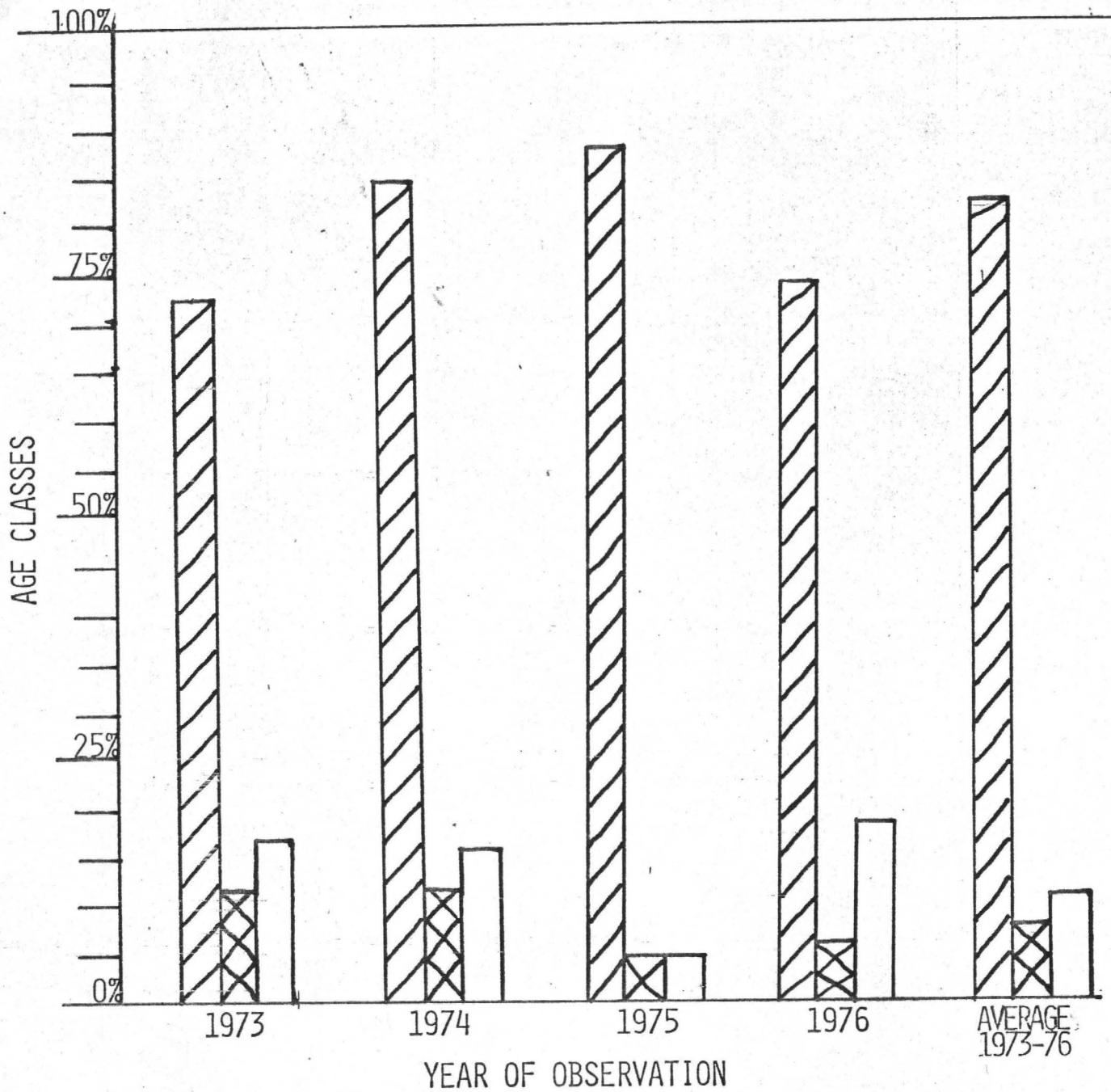
The large increase between the 1973 and 1975 inventories is not believed to be the result of a reproductive increase, but rather better methods of inventory and/or animals immigrating into the area.

Inventories have not been complete enough to determine exact ages, productivity, sex ratios, or mortality. This information may be determined by future studies. Table I shows age classes observed between 1973-1976.

b. Colors

The southern portion of the wild horse area has predominately bays, red roans, and sorrels. The northern section

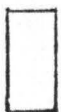
TABLE 1



ADULTS



YEARLINGS



YOUNG

BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY OF IDENTIFYING YEARLINGS, THE ACCURACY OF THIS AGE CLASS IS SUBJECT TO SOME QUESTION.

of the area contains pintos, blacks, whites, and buckskins.

c. Condition

Most animals appear to be in fair or good condition. Occasionally animals in poor condition were found intermixed with animals in fair or good condition.

Possible reasons for animals in poor condition could be the result of inbreeding, old age, sickness, parasites, or in the case of mares a result of nursing a foal. Limited forage, especially during critical times of the year, also accounts for poor condition.

Often inbreeding is a characteristic of wild horse herds, however, this is not the case in the Monte Cristo area.

The adult horses observed during inventories range in size from 700 pounds to 1000 pounds. The horses less than 1000 pounds are usually younger (3-5 years old). These horses are considered larger than the average wild and free roaming horse.

d. Forage

The majority of forage utilization by horses occurs in the salt desert shrub, sagebrush and grass types. Concentrations of animals occur in these types. The three types receive considerable pressure year-round with the primary use occurring on winterfat (Seratoides lanata). Associated native grasses used are Indian ricegrass (Oryzopsis hymenoides), squirreltail (Sitanion hystrix), needleandthread (Stipa comata), and Sandberg bluegrass (Poa secunda).

Although no fecal analysis have been conducted in the Monte Cristo area, they have been taken in the Sand Springs area on BLM administered lands 12 miles west. Vegetative types in the Sand Springs area are almost identical to those in the Monte Cristo area and tabulated results can be used to help analyze forage preference in Monte Cristo. Results of the analysis are shown in Table II.

Pinyon-juniper covers 27 percent of the herd area and provides retreat cover, but little or no forage value. Studies have classified the majority of the P-J unsuitable for horse grazing.

Forage for horses, livestock, and wildlife is provided by 71 percent of the herd management area, resulting in a heavy concentration of animals in those areas where forage occurs.

e. Water (See Map #1)

All but two perennial springs are on public land. Emigrant Spring (T. 17 N. R. 57 E. Sec. 34) and Rock Spring (T. 17 N. R. 58 E. Sec. 30) are on private land. Water rights were filed on Birch Spring (1936), Box Spring (1929), Vanover Spring (1931), and Mustang Spring (1959) by private individuals. The present status of these water rights is unknown.

f. Seasonal Use

Fall, winter and spring use occurs primarily at the lower elevations. The horses tend to move up on the benches

TABLE II

Percentage of forage categories in the diets of wild horses determined by the microhistological analysis of feces technique (400 fields at 100 x were examined per sample) Ely District, Nevada

	Horses				
	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Composite
Three awn (<i>Aristida</i>)					
Blue grama (<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>)		1.38	.06		1.89
Cheatgrass (<i>Bromus tectorum</i>)	2.03				
Sedge (<i>Carex</i>)	1.12	.16			.24
Wild rye (<i>Elymus</i>)	9.16	.51	.28		.40
Galleta (<i>Hilaria Jamesii</i>)	2.88	41.40	5.26	8.55	22.18
Indian ricegrass (<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>)	14.30	10.52	1.76	2.64	10.96
Squirrel tail (<i>Sitanion hystrix</i>)	12.26	1.04	1.24	.87	1.14
Dropseed (<i>Sporobolus</i>)	.58	1.69	1.99	.74	7.34
Needlegrass (<i>Stipa</i>)	47.65	5.36	2.46	5.99	30.75
Unknown grass	.16			.49	.49
Wheatgrass (<i>Acropyron</i>)					
Sagebrush (<i>Artemisia</i>)	.24				
Saltbrush (<i>Atriplex</i>)		.31	1.73	7.68	1.64
Balsam root (<i>Balsamorhiza</i>)					
Rubber rabbitbrush (<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>)					
Douglas rabbitbrush (<i>Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus</i>)					
Tansy Mustard (<i>Descurainia</i>)	.32			.49	
Manzanita (<i>Ephedra</i>)					
Wall flower (<i>Erysimum</i>)				.12	
Wright buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum wrightii</i>)					
Winterfat (<i>Eurotia lanata</i>)	8.03	7.29	86.90	70.45	22.82
Halogeton (<i>Halogeton glomeratus</i>)	.32				
Spiny Hopsage (<i>Grayia spinosa</i>)					
Juniper (<i>Juniperus Utahensis</i>)					
Opuntia					
Phlox (<i>Phlox hoodii</i>)	.39			.25	.24
Greasewood (<i>Sarcobatus vermiculatus</i>)	.16				
Russian thistle (<i>Salsola Kali</i>)				.12	
Nightshade (<i>Solanum</i>)					
Globe Mallow (<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>)					
Seed					.08
Unknown Chenopod		.08			.16
Unknown Composite (<i>Artemisia</i> type)					
Unknown Composite	.32				
Unknown Forb		.27	.22	1.24	.08
Unknown Legume	.08			.37	
Moss					

and higher elevations during the summer months. Horse sign is found on top of many ridges which have good grass stands. It has been suspected that horses use these higher areas during the early spring or sometimes during the winter depending on how severe the winter is. These areas have been checked at all seasons of the year and no horse concentrations have been found on the higher ridges at any time. It is felt the horses occasionally use the ridges at different times of the year, as perhaps a change of scenery or to escape the flies during summer months.

g. Home Ranges (See Map #2)

Four home ranges have been identified in the area, Emigrant Spring, Green Springs, Lampson Spring, and Bull Creek.

Generally movement of horses is confined to each home range, however, movement does occasionally occur between home ranges.

Each home range contains forage escape cover and water. Extensive trail systems are evident throughout the area, linking water to areas of preferred grazing and escape cover.

C. Coordination

1. Relationship to Other Resource Uses and Resource Conflicts

The Monte Cristo herd will be managed as an integral part of the environment in balance with other resource uses. Conflicts in the herd area are present between wild horses and livestock (see Map #2). At present there does not appear to be a conflict between wild horses and mule deer. The extent of competition between wild horses and antelope is unknown and needs to be determined.

a. Wild Horse - Wildlife

At the present time, deer numbers are low. Five crucial wintering areas are located within the boundaries of the wild horse area as shown on Map #3. Although crucial deer areas are within the wild horse area boundary, the deer use the rough rocky cliff rose (*Cowania* sp.) areas, while the horses use the more gentle rock free areas.

Antelope numbers appear to be on the increase. In 1974 the numbers were estimated at 25 head. In 1976 it was estimated that 50 head were present. The area is northeast of a designated antelope hunting area. This potential conflict should be closely observed on a yearly basis by U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Nevada Department of Fish and Game personnel.

b. Wild Horse - Livestock (See Map #2)

A specific area of concern is located between Lampson Canyon and Broom Canyon along the National Forest and Bureau of Land Management boundary.

The present range condition is poor in lower Lampson Canyon because of the heavy utilization made by horses and some cattle. The forage was utilized between 71% - 90% in 1975. Horses caused 90% of this heavy impact with cows only contributing 10%. A fence which separates lower and upper Lampson Canyon may prevent the horses from moving up the canyon and thus causing the heavy impact on the lower end of Lampson Canyon.

In upper Lampson Canyon the amount of utilization by horses and cows is completely reversed of what occurs

in lower Lampson Canyon. Cows caused 80 - 85% of the utilization whereas horses only caused 15 - 20 % of the utilization. In 1975 the Lampson Canyon seeding was used 71 - 95% by both horses and cattle.

The bench area between Birch Spring and Broom Canyon is used yearlong as the primary grazing area for the horses. The present range in this area is poor and utilization studies in this area show forage use by horses and some cattle to be very heavy. Forage utilization was between 70 - 80 percent during the 1975 grazing season, according to studies made in March 1976. Horses caused 78% of this utilization while cattle use resulted in 22 percent.

Horses in Emigrant Spring home range are in direct conflict with livestock for available forage. The low numbers (20 - 30) are not causing a significant impact upon the range. If however, the numbers should increase above 30 head, the livestock conflict could be serious.

In order to resolve these conflicts, coordination will be necessary between the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and the livestock operators in the area.

c. Interagency Cooperation - U.S. Forest Service - Bureau of Land Management

The White Pine Ranger district and Egan Resource Area will coordinate the overall management of the Monte Cristo Area by conducting joint inventories and studies, and formulating management techniques to maintain and control the wild horses in the area. As part of this cooperative

management program both agencies will jointly cooperate and coordinate information with the Nevada Department of Fish and Game, area ranchers, and wild horse interest groups concerning management goals and decisions.

D. Existing Projects

Data on existing land treatments and range improvements is shown on Map #1.

Existing fences have some effect on the movement of wild horses, but due to their presence in the area for many years, the horses are adjusted to them and no severe detrimental effects occur to the horses.

II. Objectives

A. Habitat

1. Forage

In order to determine the optimum number of horses to be maintained in the area, a maximum use of the forage species should be 30% in natural concentration areas. The possibility exists of spraying sagebrush in upper Lampson Canyon to increase forage production for both horses and cattle.

2. Cover

Any burning or chaining of pinyon-juniper within the wild horse territory will be designed to assure adequate cover is left for horses. Pinyon-juniper serves as escape cover, loafing areas and protection from severe temperatures and winds. In the event of a chaining or controlled burn, at least 30 percent of the pinyon-juniper will be maintained in its existing state.

3. Water

Water will be maintained in its present state or improved.

In the event private water is fenced or made unavailable, alternate waters will be developed.

B. Wild and Free Roaming Horses

The overall objective is to manage, protect, and control wild free roaming horses. Management will occur under Multiple Use principles in order to maintain the horses in the Monte Cristo area where they existed in 1971.

The main objective of the Wild and Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act was for protection of these animals against capture, branding, harassment, or death. This law will be enforced to its fullest extent.

1. Animal Numbers

Tentative wild horse numbers on the Monte Cristo Wild Horse Area will be maintained at an average of 96 head. This is based on proper use studies conducted on the natural horse concentration areas. Total numbers on the entire area will not be allowed to increase above 120 head or be decreased below 72 head. This allows for a 25% fluctuation of the average numbers. (See rationale for individual home range.) In conjunction with the forage utilization studies, fecal transects were conducted to determine the percentage of utilization by wild horses and cattle.

From observations, the Monte Cristo Wild Horse Area has 4 home ranges. These are the Emigrant Spring, Green Spring, Lampson Spring, and Bull Creek home ranges. Specific objectives for these home ranges are:

Emigrant Spring Home Range (See Map #2)

The March 1975 helicopter count indicated 18 head of horses using this home range. This number does not pose a serious grazing problem with livestock or wildlife nor does it create a resource problem. To reduce this number much lower may not leave a viable herd and inbreeding would likely occur. It is therefore proposed to maintain this range with an average of 18 head of horses.

Green Springs Home Range (See Map #2)

The March 1975 helicopter count indicated that 27 head of horses are presently using this home range. This number does not pose a serious grazing problem with cattle or wildlife nor does it create a resource problem. To reduce this number much lower may not leave a viable herd, and inbreeding would likely occur. It is therefore proposed to maintain this range with an average of 27 head of horses.

Lampson Spring Home Range (See Map #2)

There are approximately 15 head of horses using this home range. Utilization studies indicate this is an overuse problem which is due primarily to cattle use. Cattle are closely tied to the seeding whereas horses range out from the seeding and utilize the grass in draws and hills up to two miles from Lampson Spring. Key forage species are crested wheatgrass and bluebunch wheatgrass. Proper use on these species is 50%. Horses will be allowed to use up to 30% in their natural concentration area (Lampson seeding). This will allow for an average of 19 horses.

Bull Creek Home Range (See Map #2)

The most recent aerial inventory by helicopter (March 1975) of the Bull Creek home range shows 90 horses inhabiting the area.

Proper use on these species (white sage and perennial grass is 30%). Horses will be allowed to use up to 20% on the wild horse concentration areas. On this basis utilization studies indicate an average of 31 horses will be allowed within the Bull Creek home range.

Inadvertent livestock use is recognized in the Bull Creek wild horse concentration area and 5% forage utilization is allowed. Five percent forage utilization by wildlife is also recognized. This use is primarily mule deer and antelope. A management system will be developed to control livestock use in the area.

Utilization studies have been done for one year of grazing (1975). Further studies will be done for two more years to confirm the number of horses proposed in the plan. After the next two years, utilization studies will be done periodically to confirm grazing impact and if studies indicate, the numbers of horses will be adjusted accordingly.

Studies will also be conducted on the grazing impact of livestock in all home ranges, and livestock numbers will be adjusted accordingly.

2. Sex Ratio

In 1974 a small random survey was made in this area. The survey showed 57% males and 43% females. With this ratio, the herd is increasing approximately 7% per year. This ratio seem satisfactory to maintain the herd at its present rate. Through selective removal, the sex ratio will be maintained at approximately 50 - 60% males and 50-40% females.

3. Quality, Condition, Age Structure

Removal of severely injured, sick, old and lame horses will occur on a continuing basis in order to prevent inhumane suffering; maintain herd quality, condition and age structure. Removal will be done selectively, humanely and as unobtrusively as possible.

4. Wild Free-Roaming Behavior

Horses will be allowed to maintain their free-roaming behavior. Any fences to be constructed will be designed so that they do not significantly obstruct or impede movement of horses.

C. Other Resources

1. Wildlife

Maintain and manage wild horse numbers to avoid conflicts with wildlife requirements.

2. Livestock

Presently 4,248 AUMs of livestock graze this area (3,731 AUMs - BLM, and 517 AUMs - USFS). Livestock numbers will be adjusted as allotment management plans are developed. Livestock management facilities must take into consideration horse movements, and use patterns, in order to maintain their free-roaming behavior.

3. Recreation

Presently very few people see or are aware of the wild horses in this area. Public awareness and understanding of wild horse management will be provided for by erecting an information sign in the Hamilton area, and at the junction of State Highway 20 and Bull Creek road.

III. MANAGEMENT METHODS

A. Population Reduction

Due to varying topography and habitat conditions within each designated home range, methods of capture and horse removal will vary as follows:

Emigrant Spring, Lampson Spring, and Green Spring home ranges.

Due to numerous springs and non restrictive topography, water, and wing trapping are not feasible. Therefore, excess animals will be removed in the most humane manner possible.

Bull Creek Home Range

Water trapping will be used to capture and select excess horses for disposal. Traps will be located at Birch and Vanover Springs. During trapping operations other springs in the area will be fenced to exclude horses. In the event these efforts fail, the excess animals will be removed in the most humane manner possible. This alternative will only be considered after one full month of effort has been expended in attempting to capture the animals. The use of helicopters in gathering the horses will be evaluated.

Upon capture, excess horses will be removed to a central holding facility and cared for until such time as they can be relocated to suitable areas where horses exist, or turned over to the public under a cooperative maintenance program.

If no suitable areas are available to justify relocation and public demand for the horses is not present, the horses will be disposed of in a humane manner under the provisions of Federal and State laws.

B. Population Maintenance

The desired number of horses will be maintained according to the systems outlined above. In addition, the feasibility of sterilization to control population increases will be explored. If it becomes necessary to capture additional animals to control population increases, this will be accomplished by adopting out the young animals and leaving the older ones on the range. This method will be used provided it is feasible and maintains a proper age structure. It is more humane to adopt out the young horses and they would adjust better to captivity.

IV. MANAGEMENT FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

Initial facilities and equipment needed:

<u>Facility and/or Equipment</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Materials</u>	<u>Labor</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Corral with chute	2	\$3,000 ea.	\$3,000 ea.	\$12,000
Transportation of horses from trap to holding facilities		Contract		3,000
20 hrs. bulldozer work to upgrade road and construct reservoirs for water trap.	1		700	700
Fence other spring to be unavailable to horses during trapping operations	5	150 ea.	150 ea.	1,500
Develop water for trap	2	1,000	1,000	4,000
Veterinarian Cost			500	500
Administrative Cost			4,000	4,000
	TOTAL	\$4,150	\$9,350	\$25,700

V. STUDIES AND EVALUATION

A. Habitat

1. Utilization Mapping

The purpose for utilization mapping is to determine the impact on the range from all grazing animals. In order to determine the total utilization during the forage year, these studies should be made in the spring prior to green up. The forage use intensity is color coded on a detailed map. The following are the use intensity classes.

<u>Use Intensity Class</u>	<u>Forage Utilization</u>	<u>Use Class Symbol</u>	<u>Color Code</u>
Negligible	0-10%	N	White
Light	11-30%	L	Blue
Moderate	31-50%	M	Green
Heavy	51-70%	H	Yellow
Very Heavy	71 and over	V	Red

2. Fecal Transects

Transects will be conducted annually in conjunction with utilization studies. Results of the studies will determine the percentage of horse, livestock, and wildlife use occurring.

The ratio of droppings of wild horses, livestock and big game is determined by:

Horse	-	8 droppings/day
Cattle	-	12 droppings/day
Sheep	-	13 droppings/day
Big Game	-	13 droppings/day

3. Range Environmental Analysis (USFS) and Intergrated

Resource Studies (BLM) is used to determine range condition and trend, watershed condition, vegetative types, and other habitat factors in the herd management area.

B. Animal

Management studies will be conducted as follows:

1. Productivity and Survival

Productivity and survival will be determined by making a representative count of adults, yearlings, and current year colts. This will be done during July annually.

This information will be used to determine population trend.

2. Marked Horses

Three horses have been immobilized by use of Cap-Chur gun and a colored collar placed on the animal. The location of the marked horse and description of associated horses will be recorded when observed in order to document movement patterns, and band interactions.

3. Wild Horse Census

a. Aircraft - When funds are available, an aerial count will be made. Best results for this count are obtained when the aircraft flies systematically in an east-west grid pattern throughout the entire area.

b. Time Lapse Movie Camera (See Map #2) - In the event aircraft cannot be obtained, a reasonably accurate census may be obtained with a time lapse camera. The time lapse movie camera was used in 1974 and has proven to be a valuable tool for inventorying horse numbers.

Starting in June, the movie camera should be set at Silver Spring (#1) for one week and then move the camera in

a northerly direction every week at springs (2) through (12).

This procedure should be systematically used periodically, approximately every three years, on a continuing basis, as criteria for determining population trend.

4. Sterilization

Six to 10 harem stallions will be sterilized using various techniques. These animals will be observed to determine their behavior characteristics. Their harems will be observed to determine the effect of the sterilization of band reproduction.

VI. ANNUAL REVIEW

A joint review of this plan will be conducted annually by the District Ranger and Wild Horse Specialist of the White Pine Ranger District (USFS), and the Area Manager and Wild Horse Specialist of the Egan Resource Area (BLM).

This plan may be modified if data from public input, resource studies, plus experience gained in plan operation indicate that changes are desirable.

SIGNATURES

PREPARED BY:

Mark E. Lawrence, Jr., Range Conservationist (BLM)
Ely District

Date

Gary A. Lebsack, Wild Horse Specialist (BLM)
Egan Resource Area

Date

Kenneth G. Timothy, Wildlife Biologist (USFS)

Date

Recommended by:

W. Steve Sherman, Area Manager
Egan Resource Area

Date

Garth E. Baxter, District Ranger
White Pine Ranger District

Date

Approved by:

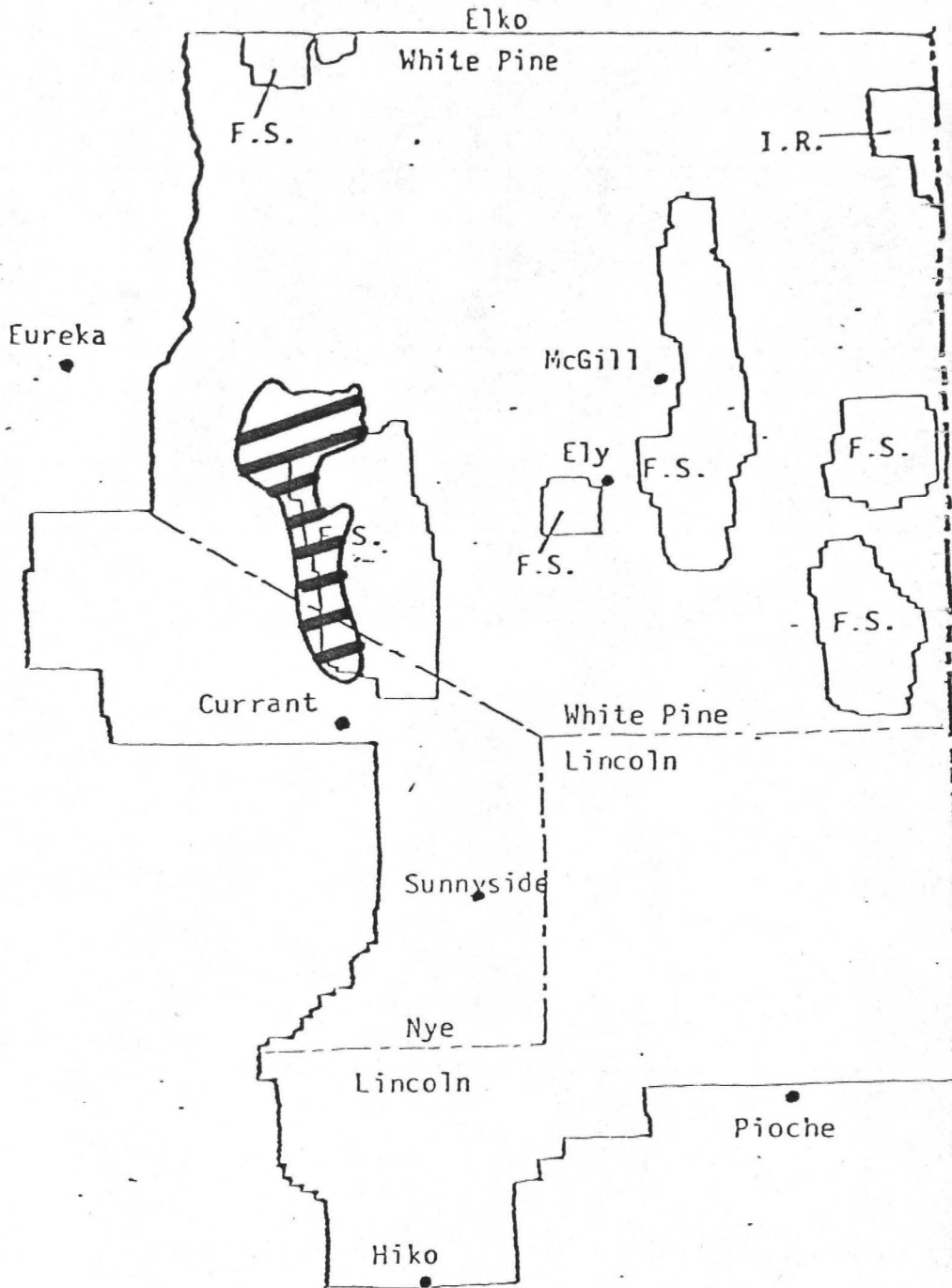
George Cropper, Acting District Manager
Ely District (BLM)

Date

John Hafterson, Forest Supervisor
Humboldt National Forest

Date

ELY DISTRICT



Nevada BLM Districts



LEGEND

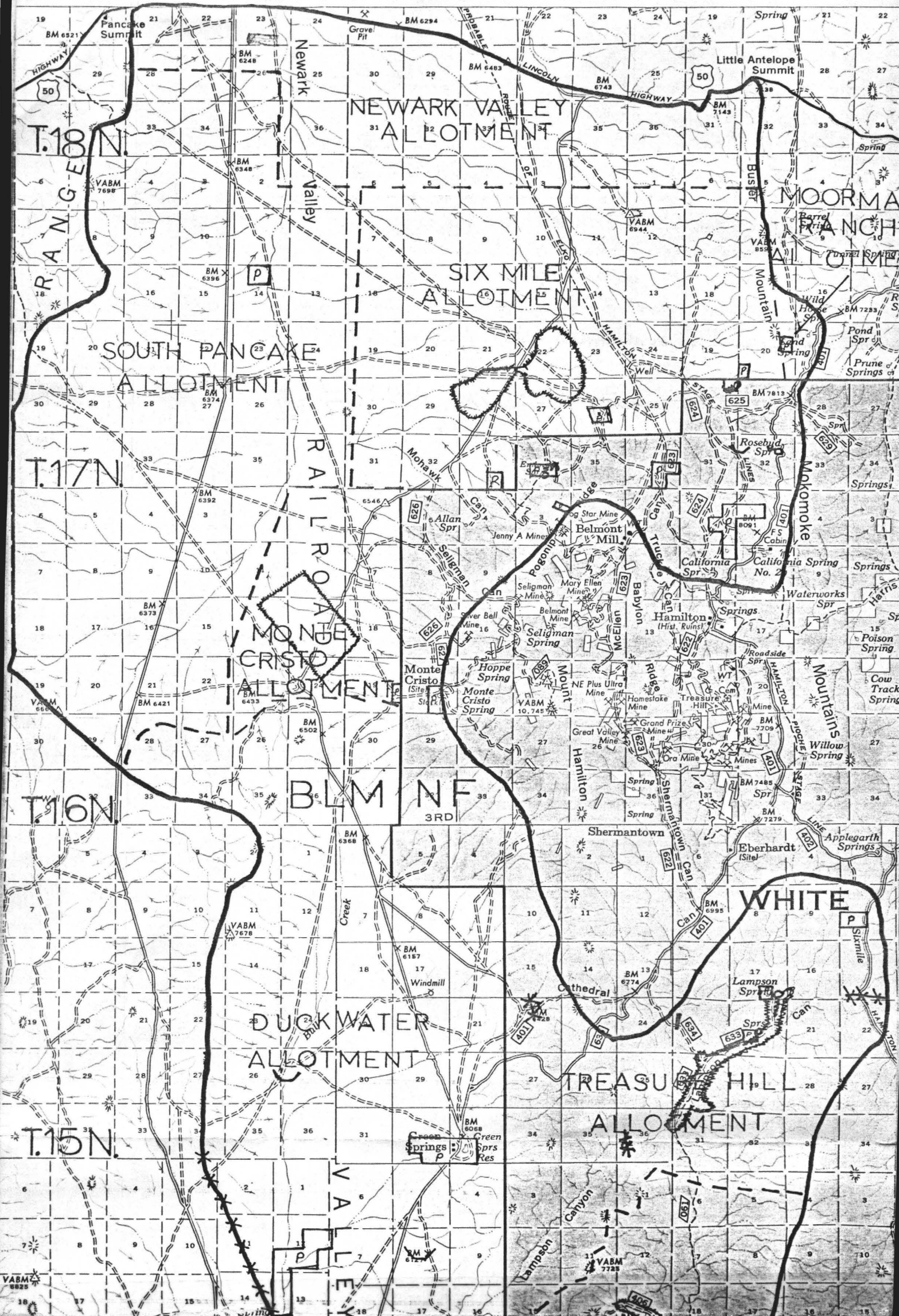
Ely District Boundary

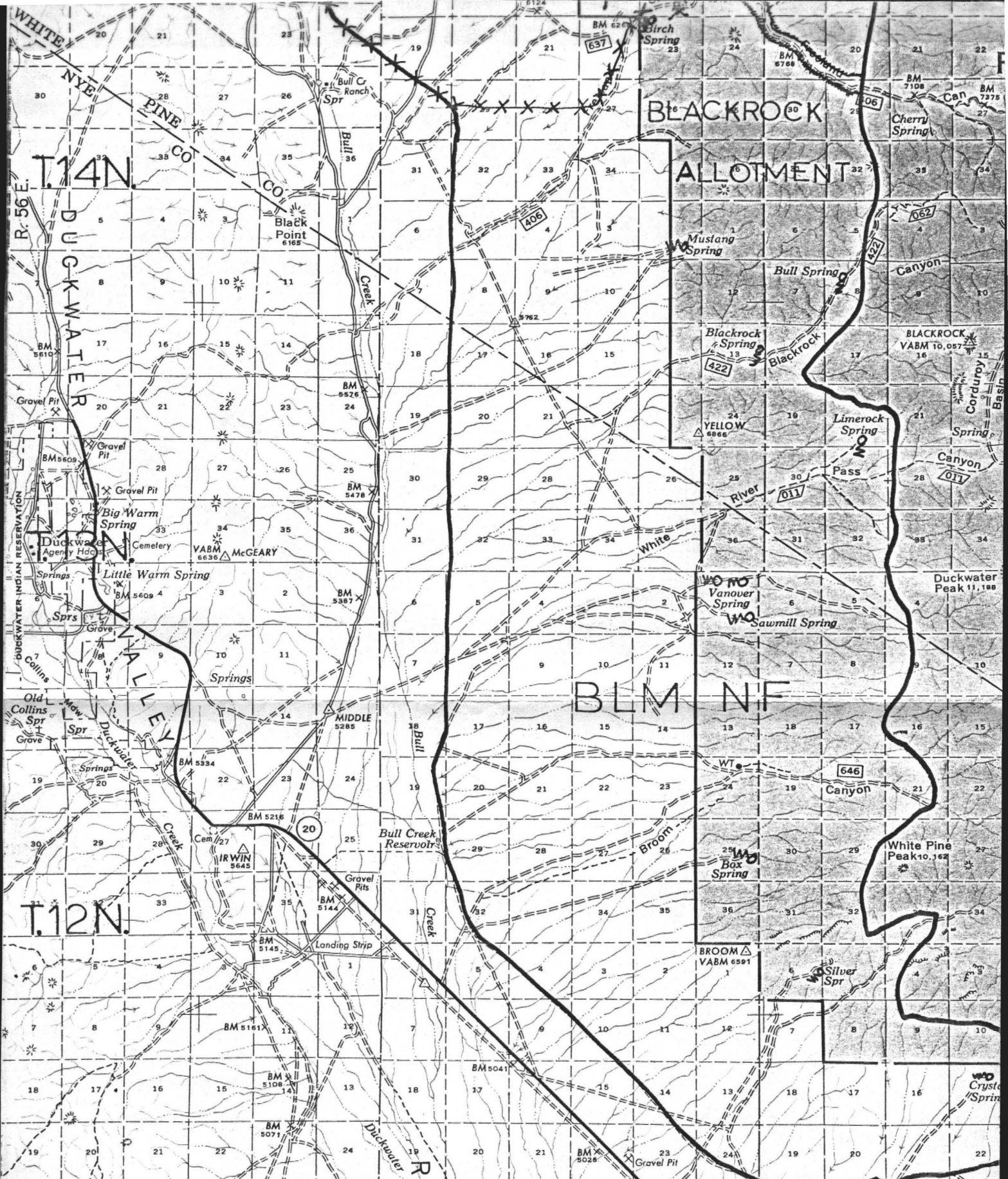
County Boundary

Monte Cristo Herd Unit

Humboldt National Forest





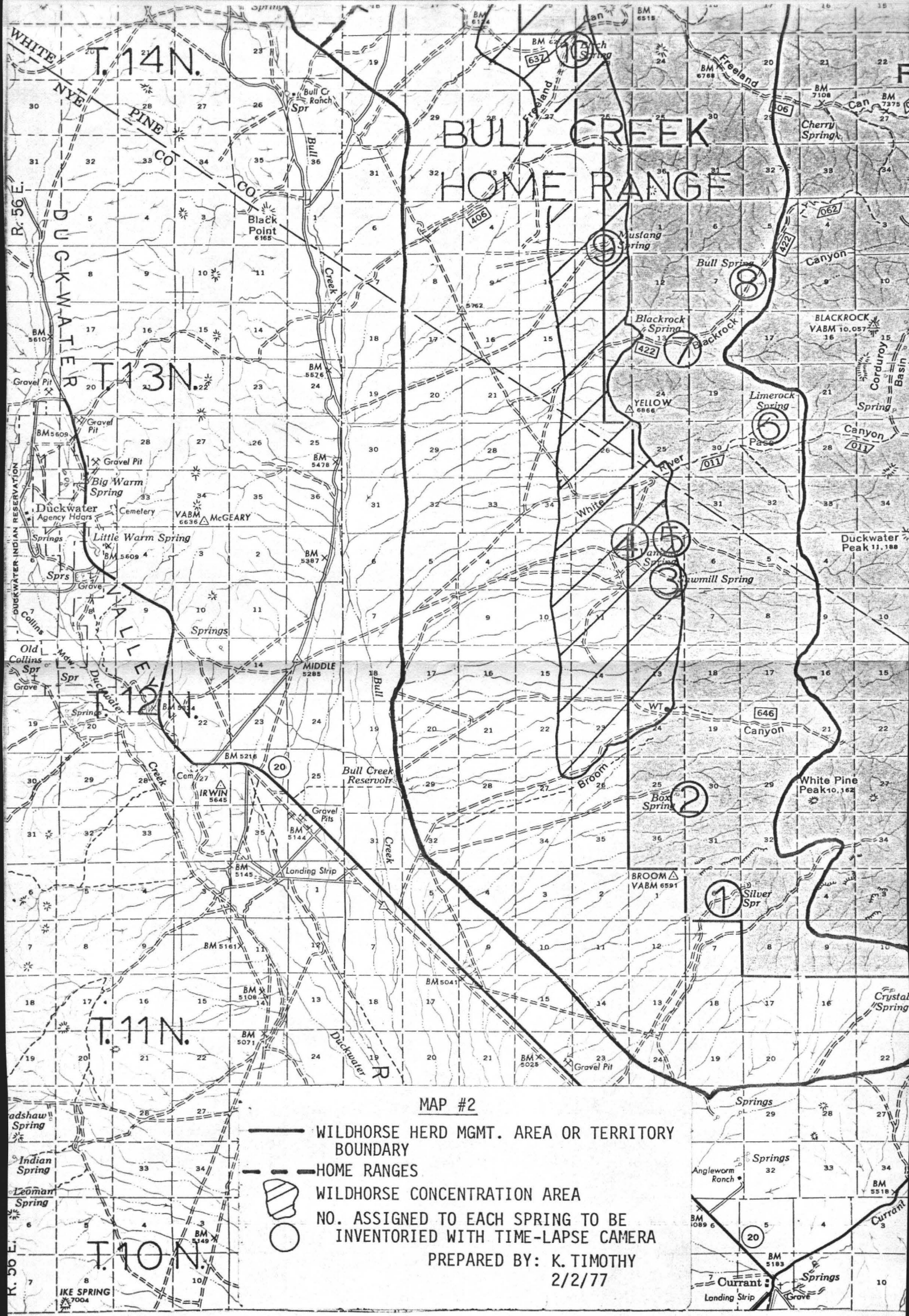


MAP #1





- WILDHORSE HERD MGMT. AREA OR TERRITORY BDRY
- SPRINGS USED BY HORSES
- ∩ RESERVOIR WHERE HORSES WATER
- - - LIVESTOCK ALLOTMENT BOUNDARY
- * * * EXISTING FENCES
- ▭ PRIVATE LAND
- ▨ BLM - B.L.M. LAND
- ◻ SEEDINGS
- NF - NATIONAL FOREST LAND

PREPARED BY:
K. TIMOTHY
2/2/77

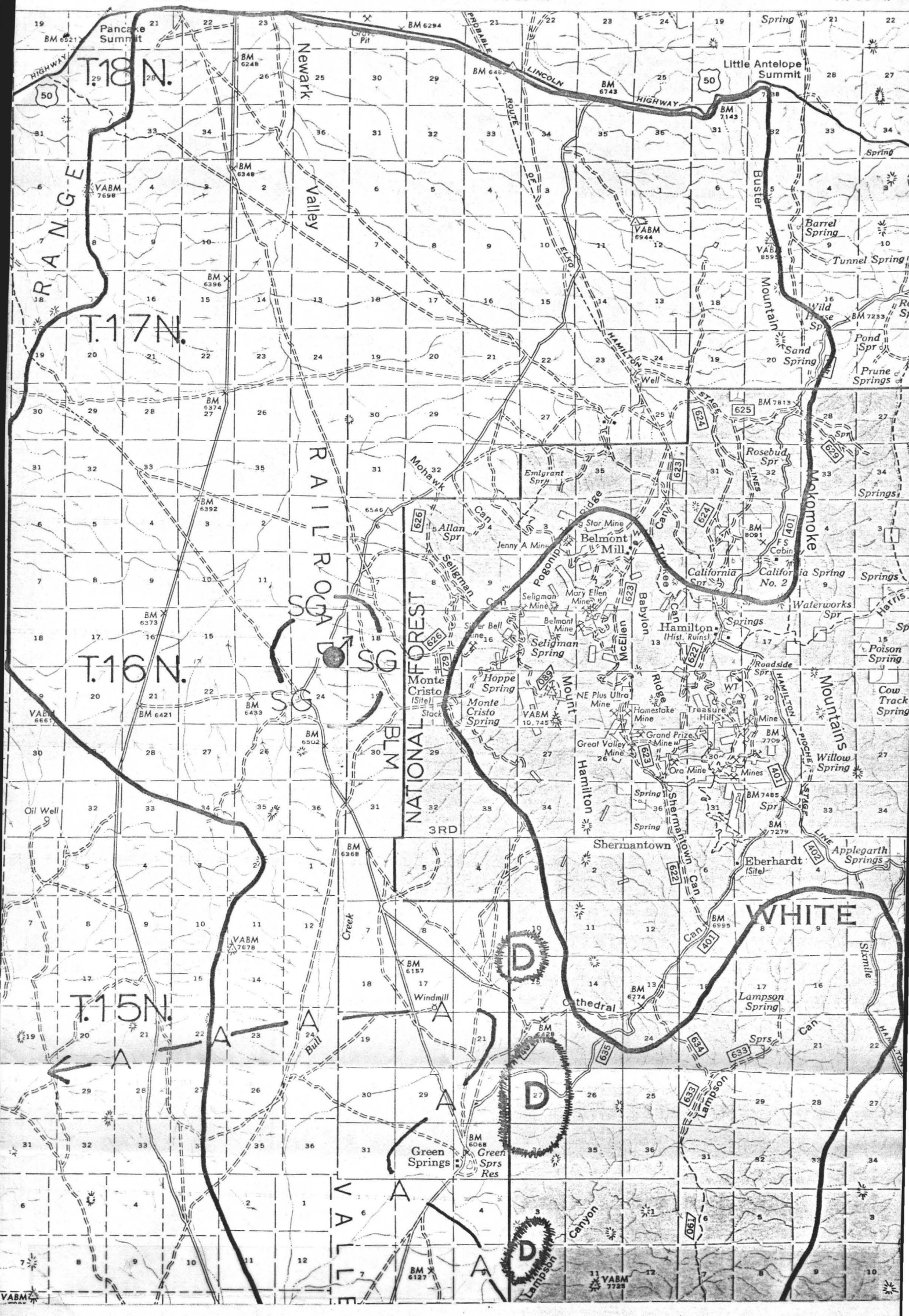




MAP #2

-  WILDHORSE HERD MGMT. AREA OR TERRITORY BOUNDARY
-  HOME RANGES
-  WILDHORSE CONCENTRATION AREA
-  NO. ASSIGNED TO EACH SPRING TO BE INVENTORIED WITH TIME-LAPSE CAMERA

PREPARED BY: K. TIMOTHY
2/2/77



T. 18 N.

T. 17 N.

T. 16 N.

T. 15 N.

Newark Valley

RAILROAD

NATIONAL FOREST

WHITE MOUNTAINS

Highway 50

Lincoln Highway

Highway 50

3RD

Valley

White Mountains

Lampson Spring

Green Springs

Green Sprs Res

Cathedral

Lampson Canyon

Shermantown

Eberhardt (Site)

Applegarth Springs

Lampson Sprrs

Lampson

Lampson

Lampson

Lampson

Lampson

Lampson

Lampson

Little Antelope Summit

Buster Mountain

Barrel Spring

Tunnel Spring

Sand Spring

Rosebud Spr

California Spr

California Spring No. 2

Waterworks Spr

Roadside Spr

Hamilton Springs

Hamilton (Hist. Ruins)

Hamilton Mine

Hamilton Mine

Hamilton Mine

Hamilton Mine

Hamilton Mine

Hamilton Mine

Hamilton Mine

Hamilton Mine

Hamilton Mine

Hamilton Mine

Hamilton Mine

Mohawk

Allan Spr

Jenny A Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Emigrant Spr

Star Mine

Belmont Mill

Mary Ellen Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Star Mine

Belmont Mill

Mary Ellen Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Star Mine

Belmont Mill

Mary Ellen Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Star Mine

Belmont Mill

Mary Ellen Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Star Mine

Belmont Mill

Mary Ellen Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

Seligman Mine

March 15, 1977

Mr. George W. Cropper, Act., Dist. Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Star Route 5, Box 1
Ely, Nevada 89301

Dear Mr. Cropper:

We wish to thank you for the opportunity to participate and add comments of the Draft Copy of the Monte Cristo Wild Horse Management Plan.

Overwhelming as the temptation sometimes is to let emotion over-ride our common sense, results of our involvement is proof that our only concern is for the welfare of wild horses and burros, other wildlife, and preservation of the public land resource without which man himself, along with other creatures dependant upon it, cannot survive. We have gone on record publicly and support sweeping range management programs currently being undertaken. We do this with a certain amount of hesitation, however, after hearing reports from Mr. Evans of the Forest Service, who proposes by the year 2000 an increase in the production of "red meat" or livestock increase to the tune of 50%. It is with this statement in mind, that we emphasize our concern that major emphasis is still placed on commercial interests.

We will support the management plans as outlined with several exceptions, which I will note in the following paragraphs.

It is suggested within the draft that further studies on utilization will be made over the next several years to confirm impact and that the horses will be adjusted accordingly. If this is done to protect a healthy viable herd, certainly this is understandable, however if this is done because of over-use or trespass

WHOA!

WILD HORSE ORGANIZED ASSISTANCE

INC.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VELMA B. JOHNSTON
LOUISE C. HARRISON
GORDON W. HARRIS
HELEN A. REILLY
JOHN REILLY
DAVID R. BELDING
JACK C. Mc ELWEE

A Foundation for the Welfare of
Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros

P. O. Box 555
Reno, Nevada 89504
Telephone 323-5908
Area Code 702

Dear Applicant:

Your application has been approved by this organization and forwarded to the federally conducted Adopt-A-Horse Program in Washington, D. C. for final disposition.

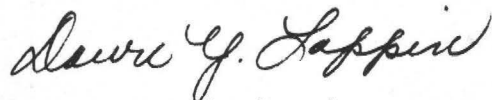
Your application has been initially screened by WHOA! It is then sent to the Adopt-A-Horse Center in Washington, D. C., to be fed into a computer, which will tabulate number, age, and sex of animals desired. When a Bureau of Land Management District has captured horses, it sends pertinent information to the computer center. The computer matches this information with the applicant's requests. Those that are matched are sent to the Bureau of Land Management District. District personnel will then notify the applicant that his animal is available, and an appointment is made to call for it.

Please remember that horses are placed according to the age and sex requested, and as soon as information on captured animals is matched to your request, you will be notified. Time, weather and the cooperation of State and local agencies are a major factor in the continuity of the gathering. When Fall gatherings are interrupted by Winter, they will be resumed in the Spring, well after the foaling season.

If for any reason you cannot fulfill your commitment, please notify this organization, or the Adopt-A-Horse Program, Washington, D. C. 20240. This will keep the records current for the smooth operation of the program.

Thank you for caring, and for being so patient during the implementation of this system.

Most sincerely,



Dawn Y. Lappin (Mrs.)
Adoption Director - WHOA!



Monte Cristo Wild Horse Management Plan

then any adjustment should not be on the part of the horses, other than to contain them within the proposed number of this draft.

While sex ratio existing now in Monte Cristo area is the prime reason for the 7% increase, this organization would find a 3 to 1 ration a much better proportion.

Fencing is not in the best interest of any wild creature. It is costly in terms of dollars and cents . . . to the taxpayers who will foot the bill; to the managing agency's work load to implement fence proposals; and to the livestock owner who's responsibility it is to maintain those fences.

In reference to page 17 (c) "Other resources", If the herd is maintained at the proposed number in the draft, I do not understand what 'conflicts' the draft is referring to. The word conflict injects a certain amount of negativism, in our opinion. We feel that the reverse is entirely possible, that livestock conflicts with wild horses. Statements of conflict only add to the popular belief that the ills of the public lands are due solely to the wild horses, which is not true. Certainly bureacratic foot-dragging, on the implementation of the law, lack of sufficient funds, and a previous reluctance on the part of the land managing agencies and the livestock industry to recognize the Wild Horse and Burro Act as a legitimate law. Not, to mention trespass and over-use of the grazing capacities in some districts.

If a sign must be erected to satisfy the desires of those wishing to view the wild horses, then that sign must also state the horses are protected by federal law, otherwise you are only contributing to a certain amount of harassment by those individuals seeking the horses.

Comments upon the method of removal of horses in the Emigrant, Lampson, and Green Springs areas will await the implementation of this draft proposal. This organization would prefer to seek opinions of those experienced (with the BLM or FS) persons who have trapped or captured horses in similar areas. Persons such as Gene Nunn or Ron Hall. We would bow to those opinions. We consider water trapping the most humane method, but also realize that this is not always possible, therefore the experience and knowledge is necessary from those who have previously worked the different methods.

We had noted on page 13 II(3) that water will be maintained, improved, or if unavailable that alternative sources will be made available. We are impressed with the desire, as this has been a major concern in some districts. It shows a true acceptance of the responsibility of protecting the horses along with the management and control. It certainly is a positive attitude on the part of the agencies.

WHOA!

WILD HORSE ORGANIZED ASSISTANCE

INC.

A Foundation for the Welfare of
Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros

P. O. Box 555
Reno, Nevada 89504
Telephone 323-5908
Area Code 702

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VELMA B. JOHNSTON
LOUISE C. HARRISON
GORDON W. HARRIS
HELEN A. REILLY
JOHN REILLY
DAVID R. BELDING
JACK C. Mc ELWEE

Dear Applicant:

Your application has been approved by this organization and forwarded to the federally conducted Adopt-A-Horse Program in Washington, D. C. for final disposition.

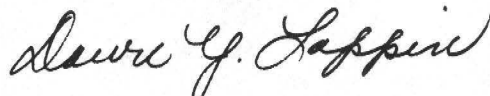
Your application has been initially screened by WHOA! It is then sent to the Adopt-A-Horse Center in Washington, D. C., to be fed into a computer, which will tabulate number, age, and sex of animals desired. When a Bureau of Land Management District has captured horses, it sends pertinent information to the computer center. The computer matches this information with the applicant's requests. Those that are matched are sent to the Bureau of Land Management District. District personnel will then notify the applicant that his animal is available, and an appointment is made to call for it.

Please remember that horses are placed according to the age and sex requested, and as soon as information on captured animals is matched to your request, you will be notified. Time, weather and the cooperation of State and local agencies are a major factor in the continuity of the gathering. When Fall gatherings are interrupted by Winter, they will be resumed in the Spring, well after the foaling season.

If for any reason you cannot fulfill your commitment, please notify this organization, or the Adopt-A-Horse Program, Washington, D. C. 20240. This will keep the records current for the smooth operation of the program.

Thank you for caring, and for being so patient during the implementation of this system.

Most sincerely,



Dawn Y. Lappin (Mrs.)
Adoption Director - WHOA!



Page three

Monte Cristo Wild Horse Management Plan

With the ever increasing demand for public land use, i.e., energy supplies, geothermal development, mining, recreation, and increasing human populations, etc., the responsibilities for priorities lies at the land management agencies front door. Its management practices instituted today will greatly affect the public land users of tomorrow.

Most sincerely,

Dawn Y. Lappin (Mrs.)
Adoption Director

CC Garth Baxter
Steve Sherman

WHOA!

WILD HORSE ORGANIZED ASSISTANCE

INC.

A Foundation for the Welfare of
Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros

P. O. Box 555
Reno, Nevada 89504
Telephone 323-5908
Area Code 702

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VELMA B. JOHNSTON
LOUISE C. HARRISON
GORDON W. HARRIS
HELEN A. REILLY
JOHN REILLY
DAVID R. BELDING
JACK C. Mc ELWEE

Dear Applicant:

Your application has been approved by this organization and forwarded to the federally conducted Adopt-A-Horse Program in Washington, D. C. for final disposition.

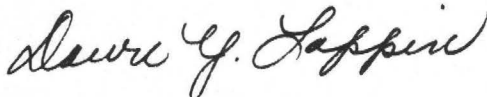
Your application has been initially screened by WHOA! It is then sent to the Adopt-A-Horse Center in Washington, D. C., to be fed into a computer, which will tabulate number, age, and sex of animals desired. When a Bureau of Land Management District has captured horses, it sends pertinent information to the computer center. The computer matches this information with the applicant's requests. Those that are matched are sent to the Bureau of Land Management District. District personnel will then notify the applicant that his animal is available, and an appointment is made to call for it.

Please remember that horses are placed according to the age and sex requested, and as soon as information on captured animals is matched to your request, you will be notified. Time, weather and the cooperation of State and local agencies are a major factor in the continuity of the gathering. When Fall gatherings are interrupted by Winter, they will be resumed in the Spring, well after the foaling season.

If for any reason you cannot fulfill your commitment, please notify this organization, or the Adopt-A-Horse Program, Washington, D. C. 20240. This will keep the records current for the smooth operation of the program.

Thank you for caring, and for being so patient during the implementation of this system.

Most sincerely,



Dawn Y. Lappin (Mrs.)
Adoption Director - WHOA!





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely District Office
Star Route 5, Box 1
Ely, Nevada 89301

5-K-77
IN REPLY REFER TO

4700
(N-047)

May 16, 1977

WHOA! (Wild Horse Organized Assistance)
Attn: Mrs. Dawn Lappin
P. O. Box 555
Reno, Nevada 89504

Dear Mrs. Lappin,

Thank you for your review and comments on the draft copy of the Monte Cristo Wild Horse Management Plan. These comments will be taken into consideration during development of the final plan.

We appreciate your effort and concern in the development of an effective wild horse management plan for horses occupying public lands in the Ely area.

As per your request, a copy of the final plan will be sent to your office upon its completion.

If you have any further questions concerning the Monte Cristo Plan, please feel free to contact us at the Ely District Office.

Sincerely yours,

Neil B. McCleery
District Manager



Save Energy and You Serve America!